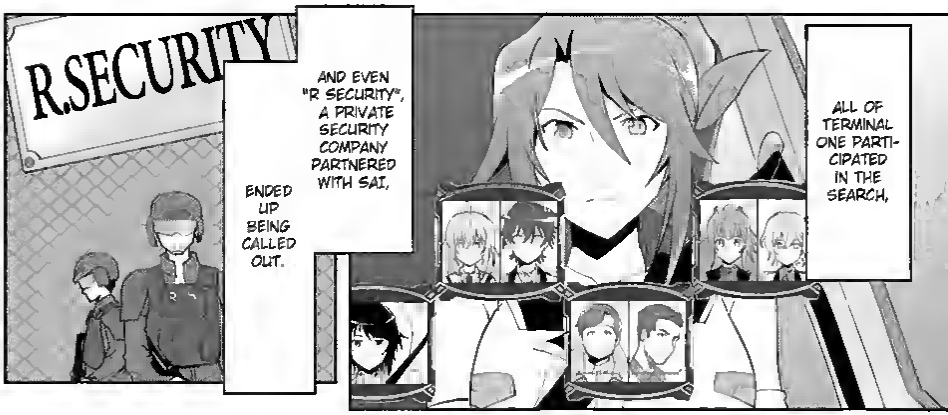
WANDER-
ERS.
GIFTIA WHO HAVE EXHAUSTED THEIR LIFESPANS, AND LOST THEIR PERSONALITIES AND MEMORIES.
GRADUALLY, THEY'RE STRIPPED OF EVERYTHING BUT PURE INSTINCTUAL REACTIONS.
THE NAME COMES FROM THE FACT THAT THEY END UP MINDLESSLY WALKING AROUND WITHOUT ANY PURPOSE.
IN SOME CASES THEY EVEN END UP ATTACKING HUMANS.
BECAUSE THEY STILL RETAIN THEIR ARTIFICIAL STRENGTH, THEY'RE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.
NORMALLY, GIFTIA ARE SUPPOSED TO BE RETRIEVED BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, BUT THIS TIME...
HEY, MICHIRU
MEMORIES:09
YOU'RE NOT HELPING, SO COULD YOU PLEASE BE QUIET?
mumble
mumble
mumble
mumble

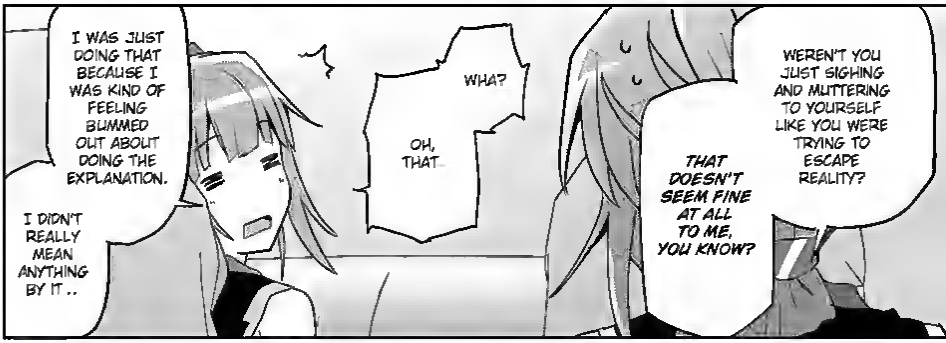
THE OTHER DAY,
SOUTA-KUN'S GIFTIA, MARCIA...
ENDED UP BECOMING A WANDERER.
THE CAUSE WAS A "BLACK MARKET RETRIEVER"—
A PERSON WHO ILLEGALLY RETRIEVES GIFTIA BY POSING AS A SAI EMPLOYEE.
MARCIA WAS KIDNAPPED BY ONE OF THEM.


R.SECURITY
AND EVEN "R SECURITY", A PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANY PARTNERED WITH SAI,
ENDED UP BEING CALLED OUT.
ALL OF TERMINAL ONE PARTI-CIPATED IN THE SEARCH,

IN THE END,
TSUKASA FIRED A SOFTWARE DESTRUCTION PROGRAM AT MARCIA,
WHO HAD ATTACKED SOUTA, AND THE CRISIS WAS OVER
IT ENDED WITHOUT HARMING ANY INNOCENT BYSTANDERS, BUT...
TO SOUTA-KUN,
THAT'S NOT REALLY ANY CONSOLATION ..
AH MICHIRU...
SIGHHH
AND,
TO THINK I'M GOING TO BE EXPLAINING THE SITUATION TO HIM,...
...IF IT'S TOUGH, YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO DO THIS..
HUH?
EXPLAINING THE SITUATION, I MEAN
I MEAN, SURE, YOU'RE THE ONE MOST QUALIFIED TO DO IT,
BEING AN ANDROID CHILD YOURSELF, AND,
WELL ...

YEAH, BUT STILL...
IT'S OKAY I APPLIED TO DO IT MYSELF, AFTER ALL. I'M NOT FORCING MYSELF OR ANYTHING.

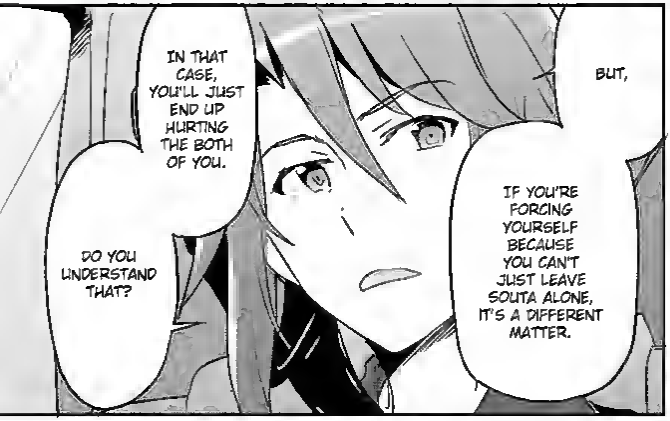
..A GIFTIA WHO WAS BASICALLY FAMILY TO ME BECAME A WANDERER, TOO.
THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT, RIGHT?
SORRY TO MAKE YOU TIP-TOE AROUND ME.


I WAS JUST DOING THAT BECAUSE I WAS KIND OF FEELING BUMMED OUT ABOUT DOING THE EXPLANATION.
I DIDN'T REALLY MEAN ANYTHING BY IT..
WHA?
OH, THAT.
WEREN'T YOU JUST SIGHING AND MUTTERING TO YOURSELF LIKE YOU WERE TRYING TO ESCAPE REALITY?
THAT DOESN'T SEEM FINE AT ALL TO ME, YOU KNOW?

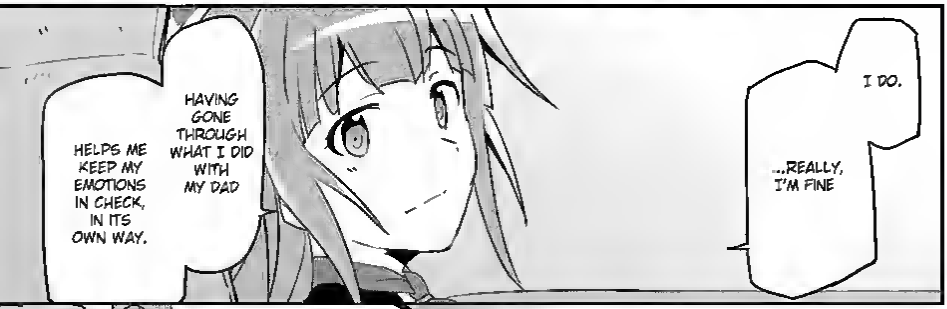
IT'S A HUGE PAIN.
..IS THAT SO?
SHE IMMEDIATELY STARTS DOING STUFF LIKE THAT.
WHEN SHE'S FEELING DOWN OR SOMETHING DOESN'T SIT RIGHT WITH HER,
I'm used to it by now, though.
.....

SHE DOES THAT ALL THE TIME, KAZUKI.

SO IT'S NOT A BAD THING TO LEAVE THE JOB TO YOU TWO, WHO SOUTA'S MET BEFORE.
AND TSUKASA'S ON OFFICE DUTY UNTIL HE KNOWS HOW THINGS ARE GONNA WORK OUT,
WELL, ISLA'S UNDERGOING MAINTENANCE FOR HER INJURIES,


IN THAT CASE, YOU'LL JUST END UP HURTING THE BOTH OF YOU.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?
BUT,
IF YOU'RE FORCING YOURSELF BECAUSE YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE SOUTA ALONE, IT'S A DIFFERENT MATTER.

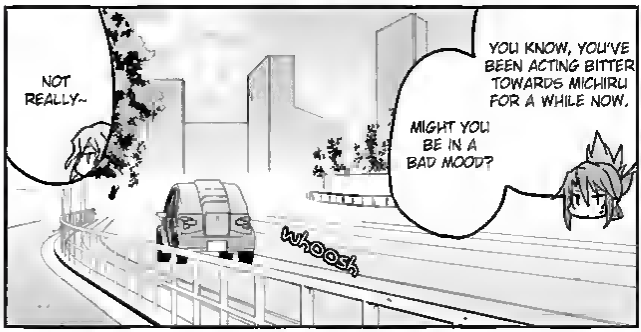
ON THE OTHER HAND,
IT MAY BE A GOOD THING THAT YOU CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH HIM BECAUSE YOU'VE GONE THROUGH SOMETHING SIMILAR,


HELPS ME KEEP MY EMOTIONS IN CHECK, IN ITS OWN WAY.
HAVING GONE THROUGH WHAT I DID WITH MY DAD
I DO.
...REALLY, I'M FINE

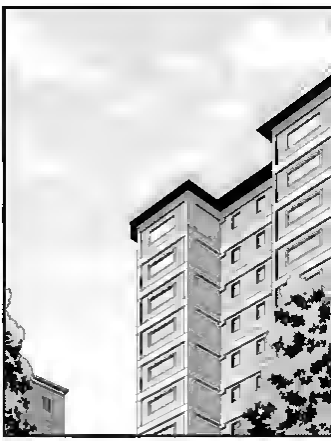
WELL, YEAH—

...
I SEE.

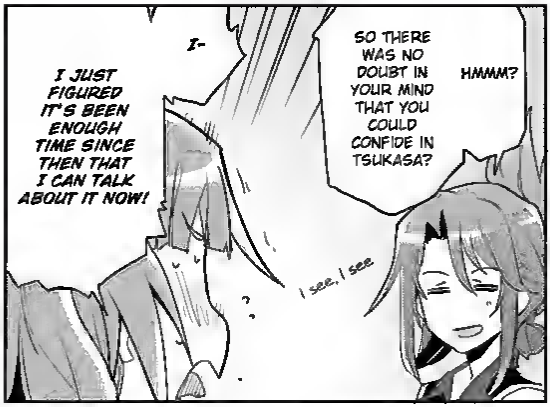
RIGHT?
AFTER ALL, IT IS SOMETHING YOU CAN MENTION EVEN TO TSUKASA, WHO'S NOT YOUR PARTNER OR RELATED IN ANY WAY.


NOT REALLY~
YOU KNOW, YOU'VE BEEN ACTING BITTER TOWARDS MICHIRU FOR A WHILE NOW.
MIGHT YOU BE IN A BAD MOOD?
whoosh

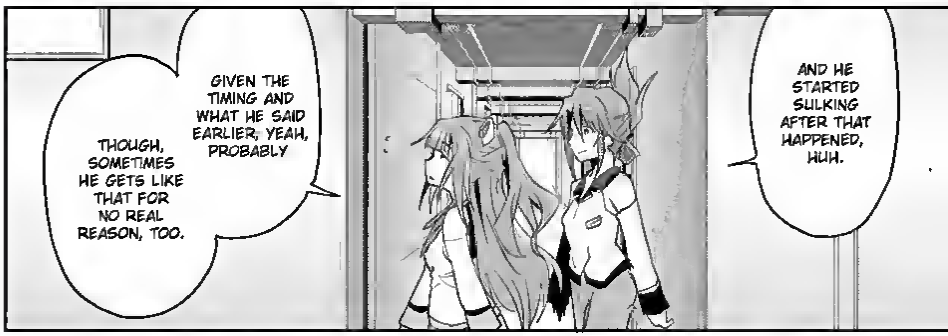
..YOU COULD'VE PUT THAT MORE NICELY.



IT HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE GONE INTO THE FIELD WITH YOU TWO, BUT,
ARE YOU GUYS ALWAYS LIKE THAT?
WELL, YEAH, MORE OR LESS...
I THINK ZACK'S KIND OF SULKING RIGHT NOW, THOUGH.
ZACK ALREADY MENTIONED IT EARLIER, BUT,
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I TOLD TSUKASA ABOUT MY DAD.
SIGH
OH, SO SOMETHING DID HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU TWO?
YEAH, HE DID SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
...IT HAPPENED WHEN WE WERE SEARCHING FOR MARCIA.
THE CONVERSATION WENT IN THAT DIRECTION, AND TSUKASA ASKED ABOUT MY DAD.
IT IS KIND OF A PRIVATE MATTER, SO,
ZACK IMMEDIATELY WARNED HIM TO NOT GO AROUND BLABBING ABOUT IT.
Are you expecting that innocent act to work
Every time you want someone to tell you something?
HUH..
SO, WHY'D YOU TELL HIM, THEN?


I-
I JUST FIGURED IT'S BEEN ENOUGH TIME SINCE THEN THAT I CAN TALK ABOUT IT NOW!
SO THERE WAS NO DOUBT IN YOUR MIND THAT YOU COULD CONFIDE IN TSUKASA?
HMMM?
I see, I see.

ER...
NO REAL REASON.


GIVEN THE TIMING AND WHAT HE SAID EARLIER, YEAH, PROBABLY
THOUGH, SOMETIMES HE GETS LIKE THAT FOR NO REAL REASON, TOO.
AND HE STARTED SULKING AFTER THAT HAPPENED, HUH.

IF I THINK ABOUT IT,
TALKING ABOUT MY DAD
WAS WHAT ALLOWED ME AND ZACK TO REALLY BECOME PARTNERS.

HOW-EVER...

PAT
I'M TELLING YOU THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO TELL YOU
THAT'S ALL.
WILL YOU HEAR ME OUT?
YEAH.

I THOUGHT HE WAS THE TYPE WHO DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING...
GUESS HE HAS SOME CUTE POINTS, TOO.
OH, I SEE.
HE'S UPSET BECAUSE TO HIM, NOW IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING YOU'LL TALK TO BASICALLY ANYONE ABOUT.
...I'M SURPRISED YOU TWO ARE ALREADY THIS CLOSE, THOUGH.
WELL, IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE ANYTHING I NEED TO WORRY MYSELF ABOUT.
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'RE BASICALLY BROTHER AND SISTER, ISN'T IT?
PLEASE DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW'S ISLA BEEN DOING?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER; I HAVEN'T SEEN HER AROUND SINCE THE INCIDENT.
OLD MAN SAYS HER INJURIES AREN'T ACTUALLY THAT BAD,
BUT,
HER BODY'S SHOWING IT'S AGE AT THIS POINT, SO IT TAKES TIME TO GET EVERYTHING BACK IN ORDER.

IN FACT, TSUKASA MAY BE THE ONE YOU SHOULD REALLY BE WORRIED ABOUT
HE WAS LOST IN HIS OWN WORLD DURING THE DEBRIEFING.
SO SHE'LL BE FINE AFTER A WHILE.
I'M HAPPY TO HEAR THAT...
IN FACT—
HE DID SEEM KIND OF DEPRESSED.
AFTER ALL, HE DID EXPERIENCE THE SINGLE WORST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU ON THIS JOB, IN A WAY.
IF I'D HAPPENED TO BE THE ONE STANDING THERE,
WOULD I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PULL THE TRIGGER...?
IF I WERE IN HIS SHOES...
NO,
BEFORE THAT...

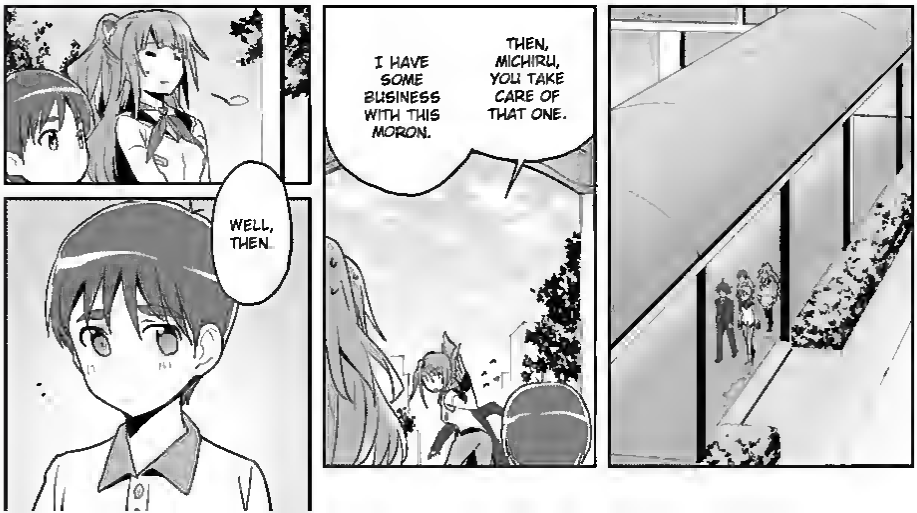
HE'LL NEED TIME TO COME TO TERMS WITH IT.
I THINK IT'D TAKE MORE THAN SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO BREAK HIM, BUT,
REALLY ALRIGHT?
... IS TSU-KASA
HUH?
TIME IS SOMETHING HE HAS PLENTY OF—
WELL, HE IS ON OFFICE DUTY UNTIL ISLA CAN COME BACK TO WORK.
...

UM... HE IS ON OFFICE DUTY, ISN'T HE?
IF HE'S HERE IN A SUIT, THEN...
HE IGNORED HIS ORDERS AND WENT TO APOLOGIZE IN PERSON.
THE IDIOT...
HEY, TSUKASA-SAN, WHERE'D MARCIA GO?
I HAVEN'T...
...PROPERLY SAID GOODBYE TO MARCIA YET, YOU KNOW!
THUD
YOU PROMISED, RIGHT?
THAT YOU'D BRING MARCIA BACK TO ME!

WHY...
TRULY, I'M...
SORRY.
...
I'M SORRY.
LET ME SEE MARCIA!
WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING?!
LET'S DO THIS.
TAP
I'M REALLY SORRY...

EXCUSE THE INTRU-SION.
I'M FROM TERMINAL SERVICE. MY NAME IS KUWANOMI KAZUKI.
I'M HERE TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO WAKANAE SOUTA-KUN.

DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT TO SPARE?


WELL, THEN.
I HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH THIS MORON.
THEN, MICHIRU, YOU TAKE CARE OF THAT ONE.

SOUTA-KUN.
LET'S TAKE A LITTLE WALK, OKAY?
SORRY ABOUT THIS
I WANTED YOU TO HEAR THIS FROM TSUKASA AND ISLA DIRECTLY, BUT...
ISLA'S A LITTLE HURT, SO SHE CAN'T COME OUT RIGHT NOW.
HURT...
DOES THAT MEAN MARCIA ..
IT'S OKAY.
THEY SAID SHE'S NOT HURT THAT BADLY.
AND TSUKASA ALSO HAS ALL SORTS OF THINGS GOING ON, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED.
HE WASN'T TECHNICALLY ALLOWED TO BE HERE.
IN THE END, HE COULDN'T STAND IT AND CAME TO APOLOGIZE, THOUGH...

!
BEING ATTACKED BY MARCIA.
IT'S HAZY, BUT I REMEMBER IT.
...
I...
I KNOW HE DID IT TO SAVE ME.
I'M SURE HE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE.
BUT...
THAT'S...
TSUKASA-SAN SHOOTING HER WITH THE THING THAT LOOKS LIKE A GUN, TOO.
I THOUGHT IT HAD TO BE A LIE.
BECAUSE TSUKASA-SAN SAID HE'D BRING MARCIA BACK TO ME
BUT...
WHEN I WOKE UP IN THE HOSPITAL,
AND THEY TOLD ME MARCIA WAS GONE...
IT WAS A HUGE SHOCK FOR ME.

WHEN I SAW HIM, I UNDERSTOOD.
MARCIA...
WAS REALLY GONE.
WHEN I THOUGHT THAT,
I COULDN'T HOLD BACK ANYMORE...
LET ME SEE MARCIA!
ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING?!
SOUTA-KUN...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO BLAME HIM LIKE THAT.
I KNEW HE DID HIS BEST.
WELL, YOU COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT HOW YOU FELT.

IF ANYTHING, IT'S WORSE WHEN YOU CAN'T GO BACK NO MATTER WHAT...
BUT, I DIDN'T KEEP MY PROMISE EITHER...
BESIDES, IT'S STILL HIS FAULT HE DIDN'T KEEP THE PROMISE.
HE DESERVED A LITTLE TELLING-OFF.
I WENT OUT TO LOOK FOR MARCIA, AND ENDED UP LIKE THAT...
...
Shake
EVEN THOUGH TSUKASA-SAN TOLD ME TO WAIT AT HOME.
Ah
I MEANT TO BACK THEM UP, BUT I JUST STEPPED ON A LANDMINE INSTEAD... I'M AN IDIOT.
AAH, JEEZ...
...SPEAKING OF WHICH, FROM WHAT THE REPORT SAID...
THEY HAD A CHANCE TO RETRIEVE MARCIA, DIDN'T THEY?
BUT, SHE WENT CRAZY WHEN SOUTA-KUN SHOWED UP.

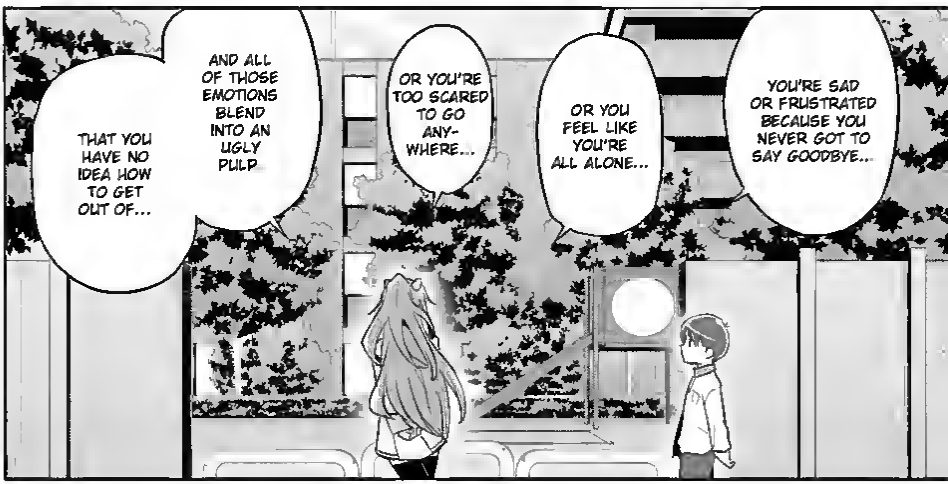
WHAT IF, BACK THEN...
I'D JUST LISTENED AND WAITED AT HOME...
AH...
.....
I GUESS YOU CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT, HUH.
BUT LISTEN, SOUTA-KUN
Point
"WHAT IF I'D JUST DONE THIS..."
I GUESS YOU CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT, HUH.
IF YOU START THINKING LIKE THAT,
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP.
SOON ENOUGH,
EVEN YOUR MOST PRECIOUS MEMORIES WILL CHANGE INTO HORRIBLE, PAINFUL THINGS.

UM
...
AH... UM... YOU KNOW?
I SAID IT, BUT,
EVEN I THINK THAT SOUNDED A LITTLE CLICHE.
UM...
BUT, IT REALLY IS TOUGH WHEN YOU START THINKING LIKE THAT.
BE-CAUSE...
BECAUSE,
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET BACK ON YOUR FEET BY YOURSELF.

IF I CAN, I'D LIKE TO SAVE YOU FROM HAVING THOSE KINDS OF THOUGHTS.
THINK OF IT AS ADVICE FROM A SENIOR WHO'S GONE THROUGH THE SAME THING YOU DID.
SAME THING...?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN...?
IT MEANS WHAT I SAID.
I TOLD YOU THAT I WAS RAISED BY A GIFTIA, LIKE YOU, RIGHT?
THAT PERSON, THE ONLY FAMILY I HAD...
... MY DAD, BECAME A WANDERER.

OF COURSE, I'M NOT SAYING THAT MEANS I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL RIGHT NOW.
BUT, FOR EXAMPLE...

YEAH.
THERE PROBABLY AREN'T A LOT OF PEOPLE WITH EXPERIENCES THIS SIMILAR, HUH?
YOU TOO...?


AND ALL OF THOSE EMOTIONS BLEND INTO AN UGLY PULP
THAT YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO GET OUT OF...
OR YOU'RE TOO SCARED TO GO ANY-WHERE...
OR YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ALL ALONE...
YOU'RE SAD OR FRUSTRATED BECAUSE YOU NEVER GOT TO SAY GOODBYE...

AHAHAH, I WAS RIGHT?
THEN, WE'RE THE SAME.

DO YOU FEEL KIND OF LIKE ANY OF THOSE THINGS RIGHT NOW, SOUTA-KUN?

LET'S SEE... THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION.
WHAT DID YOU DO, MICHIRU-SAN?
...WHEN YOU FELT LIKE THAT,
"I CAN BE SOMEONE TO TALK TO."
"I CAN'T REPLACE YOUR FATHER, BUT..."
WHILE WE WERE TALKING ABOUT ALL SORTS OF THINGS, IT BECAME A LOT EASIER COMPARED TO WHEN I WAS HOLED UP BY MYSELF.
WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT,
THERE WAS A PERSON WHO LENT HER EAR TO ME...
AFTER THE INCIDENT... WHEN IT WAS THE HARDEST, LIKE IT IS FOR YOU RIGHT NOW,

...
SOUTA-KUN
I WAS THINKING... WHAT IF I BECAME YOUR FRIEND, LIKE THAT PERSON DID FOR ME?
WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?
I DIDN'T THINK...
THERE WAS ANYONE WHO REALLY UNDERSTOOD HOW I FEEL RIGHT NOW.
I THOUGHT THAT, EVEN IF I TALKED TO SOMEONE, THEY'D JUST PITY ME...
Wipe
COULD YOU TELL ME ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, TOO?
YOU MEAN... THE THING WITH MY DAD, RIGHT?
SURE.
OF COURSE YOU'D BE CURIOUS.
THEN, LET'S SIT AND TALK OVER THERE.
OKAY.
Th-thanks...

SAI Corp. Translation Service

Translation - QA - Project Lead

OmegaVesko

Cleaning - Typesetting

Rik